Mrs. Kate Foote,

Michichi, Alberta.

RED DEER RIVER

One of the most interesting and historic rivers in Alberta is the Red Deer river. Not only does its picturesque valley conceal the secrets of the Dinosaurs and the Stegosami that roamed upon its banks many many years ago but it is rich in Indian lore and legends.

Mrs. Reed, a member of the Munson Women's Institute, in accordance with the work of the Alberta Women's Institute in gathering up the early history of the district, tells some interesting stories of the Red Deer river community near Munson.

Mrs. Reed says one of the first families to settle in the district was the Rowe family--Mr. and Mrs. Henry Rowe and their four children. Mr. Rowe came out in 1906 from England where he had been engaged in ministerial and Sunday school service. He homesteaded on "20-30-19-4", a location which is now a few miles east of Munson--where after the custom of the country, he built a long low sod-roofed log shack. In this pioneer home he conducted the first church services ever held across the Red Deer during the settlement. His daughter, Ada, on these occasions presided at the piano--the only piano in those days.

A phonograph too was another prize possession of these first homemakers, and this proved so popular that it made the Rowe home the rendezvous of the young people of the neighborhood.

Mrs. Rowe was the first nurse in the settlement and was an angel of mercy in time of need.

When the Methodist Conference organized this district later a special letter of appreciation was sent to Mr. Rowe for his splendid services during the early days. He still lives in the district and does local work.

THE STONE PILE

An interesting land mark of this district is "the Stone Pile", a horse and rider outlined with stones on a mound. This marked the northern limit of the Sarcee hunting grounds. From the "Stone Pile" to the Hand Hills, a line extended over which no good Sarcee ever thought of hunting.

WIGMORE'S FORD

Wig more's Ford, seven miles west of Munson, has also an interesting superstition attached to it. This is one of the most dangerous crossings of the Red Deer river, made so, because after each high water the bed of the ford shifts. The Indians, Blackfoot and Sarcee have a superstition that on the 28th of June each year the Red Deer river demends a human sacrifice. They believe that this was taken more often at Wigmore's Ford than any other place. Quite a number of the early male settlers have lost their lives in the river and the majority of these on June 28th. So much was the superstition believed by early day travelers, that finding themselves on the bank of the Red Deer river at Wigmore's Ford on June 28, they waited a day or so before crossing. One of these early pioneers, who lost his life in the Red Deer, was Mr. Robert Wigmore who was helping a homesteader and son

across the Red Deer at the Wigmore Ford. Mr. Wigmore's boat was capsized, this throwing him into the turbulent stream, and he was swept away.